

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the attached EPO examination report from a corresponding counterpart application at the EPO. The art cited therein is already of record.

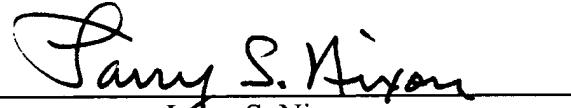
The above preliminary amendment attempts to put this application in more traditional U.S. format, to cancel non-statutory claims under current U.S. law and to incorporate the limitations of original claim 4 in each independent claim 1, 14, 22 and 23.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:


Larry S. Nixon
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:kmr
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100